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What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for use in an application including at least one of clamping and valving, the apparatus comprising:

a support structure; and

actuator means for operating the support structure between a rest position and an actuated position.

- 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the actuator means is a piezoelectric device.
- 1 3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the support structure is a single piece.
- 1 4. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the 2 support structure is a mechanically active element of the 3 apparatus.
- 5. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the support structure includes opposing resilient arm portions biased to the rest position.
- 6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the arm portions are driven from the rest position to the actuated position in response to actuation of the actuator means.
- 7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the arm portions are biased to return to the rest position from the actuated position in response to deactuation of the actuator means.
- 1 8. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the 2 support structure is made from one or more materials.

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1	9. The	apparatus of claim 2 wherein the
2	support structure	is made from at least two materials
3	bonded together.	

- 1 The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the actuator means produces a spatial displacement when actuated and the support structure includes a pair of opposing arms disposed relative to the actuator for amplifying the spatial displacement.
  - In an apparatus for use in an application including at least one of clamping and valving having a support structure and piezoelectric actuator, the improvement comprising:

the support structure being a single piece.

- The improvement of claim 11 wherein the support structure is a mechanically active element of the apparatus.
- 1 The improvement of claim 11 wherein the support structure includes opposing resilient arm 2 3 portions biased to a rest position.
- 1 14. The improvement of claim 13 wherein the arm portions are driven from the rest position to an 2 3 actuated position in response to actuation of the 4 actuator.
- The improvement of claim 14 wherein the 1 15. arm portions are biased to return to the rest position 2 3 from the actuated position in response to deactuation of 4 the actuator.
- 16. The improvement of claim 11 wherein the support structure is made from one or more materials. 1 2

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1	17. The improvement of claim 11 wherein the
2	support structure is made from at least two materials
3	bonded together.
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The improvement of claim 11 wherein the actuator produces a spatial displacement when actuated and the support structure includes a pair of opposing arms disposed relative to the actuator for amplifying the spatial displacement.

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